above; which were the actual such exercises undertaken after 1983-84 and when; and what are their figures?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI JANARDHAN POOJARI): (a) and (b) The Integrated Rural Development Programme (IRDP), one of the important poverty alleviation programmes, aims at assisting the families belonging to target group in rural areas to cross the poverty line through provision of productive assets, while National Rural Employment Programme (NREP) and Rural Landless Employment Guarantee Programme (RLEGP) aim at generation of additional wage employment for the unemployed and underemployed in the rural areas. The purpose of Concurrent Evaluation of these programmes is to find out, during the course of implmentation, whether the programmes are going on in the desired direction, whether the benefits are reaching to targetted groups and whether the guidelines issued by the Centre and States are being followed in the field in letter and spirit. Similarly other Evaluation Studies, which in fact are, by nature, post implementation studies aim at finding out whether the programmes had the desired impact in the area. Such studies do help the Government to take corrective measures wherever necessary. However, no attempt is made through these evaluation studies to estimate the number of persons below the poverty line. Actual number of persons below poverty line is assessed by only National Sample Survey Organisation (NSSO) from time to time.

The methodology for conducting the Concurrent Evaluation of IRDP and NREP is based on stratified multi-stage random sampling. Every month about 36 districts in the country are selected randomly and from each selected district two blocks are selected on random sampling basis. In the case of IRDP a sample of 10 new and 10 old beneficiaries is selected from each selected block, while in the case of NREP, a sample of 5 completed works and 5 ongoing works is selected randomly from each selected block. The field survey is carried out by reputed independent research organisations.

As regards other evaluation studies, methodologies differ from study to study.

Change in statutes as suggested by Chairman of the Press Council of India

*339. SHRI CHITTA BASU: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Press Council of India Chairman has recently suggested some changes in the Statutes for making the Council more effective;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) what is Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI H. K. L. BHAGAT): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Copper crisis in the country

*340. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA: Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the copper crisis and its drastically cut allocation to the consumer industries in the country that is seriously affecting their productoin;

(b) if so, what are the major reasons therefor;

(c) what is the percentage of decline in the indigenous production of copper during 1986-87 and 1987-88 and comparative rise in its imports during these years to meet the demand; and